



Department of Justice

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COURT OF APPEALS AFFIRMS CONVICTIONS AND SENTENCES OF BAND-AID BANDIT AND HIS CO-DEFENDANT

Tampa, Florida - U.S. Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces that the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit today affirmed the convictions and sentences of notorious bank robbers Rafael Rondon, a/k/a the "Band-aid Bandit," and Emeregildo Roman.

According to court documents, from 2000 to 2006, Rondon, often accompanied by Roman, his former brother-in-law, robbed dozens of banks in central Florida. In many of the robberies, Rondon bore a band-aid on his left cheek to cover a mole. As a result, he became known as the Band-aid Bandit during their lengthy crime spree.

In July 2006, shortly after Rondon and Roman had robbed the Fifth Third Bank in Clearwater, FBI agents searched their houses, where they found guns, disguises, and about \$175,000, much of it still in Fifth Third Bank straps. Both men were charged with and convicted of six of the bank robberies they had committed, along with associated firearms offenses. Rondon was sentenced to serve almost 150 years in federal prison. Roman received a sentence of more than 125 years' imprisonment.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Colleen Murphy. The appeal was handled by Assistant United States Attorneys David Rhodes and Roberta Bodnar.